

Wednesday, 09/06/2017

The ERT's mobile laboratory, using the TAGA tandem mass spectrometer system, extensively monitored the neighborhood adjacent to the Valero refinery (Houston). Low level benzene concentrations (less than 1 part per billion by volume (ppbv)) were observed at many locations. At multiple times, plumes of benzene and the other aromatics were observed at the corner of Manchester Road and 97th Avenue. The maximum concentration of benzene observed was less than 15 ppbv. Toluene and xylenes/ethylbenzene were also present in these plumes with maximum concentrations less than 30 ppbv for each. Trichloroethene was also observed at a concentration of less than 5 ppbv. A plume, which was very narrow and located at Avenue J and 96th Street, exhibited concentrations of benzene, toluene, xylenes/ethylbenzene (BTX) at 15 ppbv, 60 ppbv, and 60 ppbv, respectively. This source was very small due to its limited width. It was also very transient since the plume was not present on the next pass through the area only minutes later. Lastly, there were other plumes of limited concentration observed on Manchester Road. The wind was reported to be out of the NNE today.